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toward reducing a scientific contribution of the first order to the level of a mere collection (albeit an important one) of scientific data. The defects are not of such character as to stand in the way of appreciation of the rich body of material brought together, or of the rational classification evidently resting in the mind of the author ; yet they must lead readers to hope for a more systematic presentation, at an early day, from one who has done so much to raise the study of games to the plane of science.

W J MCGEE.

Explorations in the Far North. By FRANK RUSSELL. *Being the report of an expedition under the auspices of the University of Iowa during the years 1892, '93, and '94.* [Iowa City :] Published by the University, 1898. 8°, ix, 290 pp., ill., map.

This modest publication is the record of a remarkable exploration of Arctic America. Dr Russell (now of Harvard) set out in the interest of the State University of Iowa to make natural-history collections in the neighborhood of Great Slave lake, and thence northward to the shores of the Arctic ; in carrying out his plan, he was brought in contact with the various Athapascan tribes, lived in their lodges, and otherwise suffered opportunities for making their intimate acquaintance. One of his hardest trips led him northeastward from Fort Rae across Coppermine river and nearly to Bathurst inlet, where he shot a number of musk-oxen and brought out their heads and skins by dint of incredible labor ; then he undertook the unprecedented task of canoeing down Mackenzie river throughout its entire length and along the coast of the Arctic ocean from its mouth to Herschel island, in order to make connection with a fleet of whalers of which a rumor had come to him—and this essay, like the others of his unique expedition, was successfully accomplished. Half of his book is devoted to the itinerary ; the other half comprises four chapters on ethnology, with an extended supplement on the natural history of the region traversed. The notes on the Athapascan tribes are of value, though most of the linguistic notes are withheld for future publication. A considerable collection of ethnologic material (now preserved in the State University of Iowa) was made, and is illustrated in the work, this material representing both Athapascan and Eskimo handicraft ; and a chapter is devoted to the myths of the Cree Indians of the Woods. The author deploras the meagerness of his ethnographic notes and material ; yet he has succeeded, in itinerary as well as in the special chapters, in presenting a remarkably clear and instructive picture of tribesmen engaged in bitter struggle against the most inhospitable environment of the North American continent.

W J MCGEE.